

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS/ELECTION

Claims 5 and 65 have been amended to correct typographical errors, and new claims 68 and 69 have been added. Non-elected claims 52-60 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 9, 16, and 64 as well as new claim 68 have been withdrawn as drawn to a non-elected species. In addition, the specification has been amended to update the status of the parent applications. Claims 1-8, 10-15, 17-51, 61-63, 65-51, 61-63, 65-67, and 69 are now actively pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended.

As requested, Applicants have amended the specification to reflect the status of the of parent applications, and Applicants have amended claim 5 to correct the typographical error noted by the Examiner.

Prosecution of this application has been restricted to one of two groups of claims: Group I, consisting of claims 1-51 and 61-67; and Group II, consisting of claims 52-60. Prosecution has been further restricted to one of the following patentably distinct species: Species (1), corresponding to Figures 1, 2B, 4B, 4E, 5E, 7A-7E, 8A-8F, 9A, and 9B (presumably drawn to a contact structure with a plurality of columns); Species (2), corresponding to Figure 4A (presumably drawn to a contact structure with a single column); Species (3), corresponding to Figure 3 (presumably drawn to a contact structure with resilient columns); Species (4), corresponding to Figures 5A-5D (drawn to a contact structure with an "upwardly slanted beam"); Species (5), corresponding to Figures 10A and 10B (presumably drawn to a contact structure having a beam with channels into which columns are secured); and Species (6), corresponding to Figures 11A-11C (presumably drawn to a contact structure having a beam with holes into which columns are secured).

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I—claims 1-51 and 61-67—and Applicants have canceled non-elected claims 52-60. Applicants further elect Species 1, corresponding to Figures 1, 2B, 4B, 4E, 5E, 7A-7E, 8A-8F, 9A, and 9B. Of the remaining claims—claims 1-51 and 61-67—claims 1-8, 10-15, 17-51, 61-63, and 65-67 as well as new claim 69 read on elected Species 1. Moreover, claims 1-8, 10-15, 17-40, 62, and 65 are generic to at least species 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. In addition, claims 41-51, 61, 63, and 66 and new claim 69 are generic to at least species 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6.

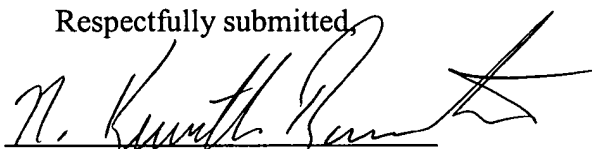
Claims 9, 16, and 64 and new claim 68 are withdrawn from consideration as drawn to one or more non-elected species. Applicants request, however, that, upon allowance of a linking claim (e.g., a claim from which any of these withdrawn claims depends or a generic claim), these withdrawn claims be reactivated and also examined.

Applicants request examination of the application and an early notice of allowance. If at any time the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5934.

Respectfully submitted,

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